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MANDATORY, STAGE 3 WATER RESTRICTIONS ENFORCED BEGINNING THURSDAY, JUNE 1

(May 27, 2006) Mandatory, Stage 3 water restrictions limiting landscape watering for Frisco residents to once a week on their designated trash day go into effect Thursday, June 1. In Frisco, Stage 3 also prohibits outdoor watering between 5 a.m. and 8 a.m. and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Stage 3 water restrictions prohibit operating fountains with potable water, washing vehicles with hoses and using water in such a manner as to allow runoff or other waste. Soaker hoses, drip systems and hand-held hoses may be used for trees and shrubs up to one hour on any day or for foundations as necessary. Stage 3 does not significantly affect the landscape or pool industry.

Director of Public Works Gary Hartwell said the water restrictions will be strictly enforced by staff that will be out in the city constantly looking for violators. Violators can expect to have their sprinkler systems disconnected with reconnection fees and other monetary penalties for additional violations. Fines can be up to \$2000 per offense, per day.

"It is important, especially right now to conserve water and succeed with Stage 3 water restrictions," Hartwell said. "Our goal is for everyone to realize this too, which is why we are offering free irrigation audits and why we are very serious about enforcing the water restrictions to avoid moving to Stage 4."

Hartwell said Special "purple" signs will be placed throughout the city to designate areas not using city water for irrigation purposes. Those areas using well water, reuse, or reclaimed water do not fall under the Stage 3 water restrictions unless they cause public safety or health hazards.

Watering of medians and landscape areas will take place in accordance with the Stage 3 water restrictions.

"Some of the medians and other grassy areas in the city are controlled by the city or by private companies. The city will abide by the same restrictions as all Frisco residents," Hartwell said. "Right now the city's sprinkler systems are turned off in city controlled medians except for drip systems watering the trees. Until we're out of Stage 3, we'll have to get by on rain water."

Parks are now being watered once a week instead of the usual twice a week, said Bobby Johnson, Superintendent of Parks. Because of safety issues, watering of the athletic fields will continue but will be reduced during the off season.

“Parks may not look so good this year but neither will residents’ yards,” Johnson said. “People are using water more than they need to, and soon they will see the effects of that. I don’t think you are going to see plush yards for a while.”

Frisco Resident Steve Brock said he had water conservation on his mind when he made an appointment with Irrigation Specialist Mike Barth for a free irrigation audit. The irrigation audit is one program the City has designed to help residents reduce water waste.

“It seemed like good sense to me to get a water audit,” Brock said. “I am new to this sprinkler system and want to make sure there is no waste.”

Brock said getting an irrigation audit is beneficial to him and to the community as a whole.

“When I drive around it looks like there is some waste in water,” Brock said. “Getting things checked out cuts my bill down but also conserves water.”

Barth said his calendar is filling up fast with residents wanting to take advantage of free irrigation audits provided by the city.

“It’s a good thing to have an irrigation audit just to make sure no water is being wasted,” Barth said. “It is a free service that will definitely go a long way.”

To make an appointment for an irrigation audit – or for more information about Stage 3 Water Restrictions and Frisco’s Water Conservation and Drought Contingency Plans – contact the Department of Public Works, 972-335-5520 or visit the City of Frisco Web site at www.friscotexas.gov.

In April, the City Council revised the city’s Drought Contingency Plan, which is designed to conserve the available water supply in times of drought and emergency while promoting water conservation through public education.

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